

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 FRANKF 01568 101059Z

50

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01

SAJ-01 /059 W

----- 104404

R 101023Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9523

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FRANKFURT 1568

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: LEFTISTS RETAIN CONTROL OF FRANKFURT SPD

1. SUMMARY: AFTER AN ABORTIVE ATTEMPT BY MORE MODERATE LEFTISTS GEBHARDT AND VOIGT TO FORM AN ALLIANCE WITH ARNDT'S LEFT-CENTER FACTION, THE EXTREME LEFTISTS HAVE REAFFIRMED THEIR CONTROL OF THE FRANKFURT SPD. END SUMMARY.

2. SINCE THE LEFTIST MAJORITY ELEVATED FRED GEBHARDT AND KARSTEN VOIGT TO BE CHAIRMAN AND FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN, RESPECTIVELY, OF THE FRANKFURT SPD A YEAR AGO, THE TWO MEN HAVE ATTEMPTED TO ACHIEVE A MODUS VIVENDI WITH LORD MAYOR ARNDT'S LEFT-CENTER, MINORITY FACTION. THEY ARGUED THAT THE PARTY ORGANIZATION COULD ACCOMPLISH LITTLE IN CONFRONTATION WITH ITS OFFICE HOLDERS AND THAT THIS SPLIT COST VOTES. THEY MADE CLEAR THAT THE PARTY SHOULD REMAIN TO THE LEFT OF ITS OFFICE HOLDERS, BUT THEY CONTENDED THAT THE UTOPIAN POSITIONS ADVANCED BY THE LEFTISTS DEPRIVED THE PARTY OF CREDIBILITY IN THE ELECTORATE AND INFLUENCE ON ITS OFFICE HOLDERS. THE 9-6 LEFTIST MAJORITY WAS EFFECTIVELY REVERSED ON SPECIFIC ISSUES.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 FRANKF 01568 101059Z

3. IN PREPARATION FOR THE MARCH 8-9 ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE FRANKFURT SPD THE GEBHARDT AND ARNDT FACTIONS PREPARED A JOINT SLATE FOR THE 15-PERSON EXECUTIVE BOARD WHICH WOULD LEGITIMIZE THE 9-6 LEFT-CENTER MAJORITY. THOSE LEFTISTS WHO WERE QUOTE HARDEST WORKING AND LEAST OBSTRUCTIVE UNQUOTE WOULD BE RETAINED, BUT DOROTHEE VORBECK (SECOND VICE CHAIRMAN), ERICH NITZLING (TREASURER), ANITA BREITHAUP AND ALEXANDER SCHUBART WOULD BE DROPPED. HANS MICHEL, CITY PARLIAMENT FACTION CHAIRMAN, SHOULD REPLACE VORBECK, AND EX-TREASURER HANS WOELL SHOULD REPLACE NITZLING. THE JUSOS AND OTHER LEFTISTS WERE FURIOUS AT WHAT THEY CONSIDERED GEBHARDT'S AND VOIGT'S QUOTE BETRAYAL UNQUOTE. SINCE THE LEFTISTS HAD NO CANDIDATE READY TO RUN AGAINST GEBHARDT, THEY SAID THEY WOULD VOTE RELUCTANTLY FOR HIS REELECTION BUT WOULD OPPOSE VOIGT AND SUPPORT RETENTION OF THE FOUR.

4. THE GEBHARDT AND ARNDT FACTIONS APPARENTLY OVERRATED THEIR OWN PERSUASIVENESS AND STRENGTH. WHEN THE BALLOTING OCCURRED MARCH 8, GEBHARDT WAS REELECTED CHAIRMAN (AFTER THE LEFTISTS MADE CLEAR THAT HE HAD LOST THEIR CONFIDENCE) AND MICHEL BECAME SECOND VICE CHAIRMAN, BUT VORBECK REPLACED VOIGT AS FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN AND NITZLING WAS REELECTED TREASURER. VOIGT (WHO LEAVES MARCH 11 FOR AN IVP TRIP TO THE U.S.) HAD TO SETTLE FOR REVERTING TO BEING AN ORDINARY MEMBER OF THE BOARD. BREITHAUP WAS REELECTED TO THE BOARD, BUT SCHUBART WAS NOT. THE NEW BOARD HAS EVEN STRONGER LEFTIST MAJORITY OF 10-5.

5. THE FRANKFURT SPD WILL STILL GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO ARNDT FOR THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE SOUTH HESSEN SPD AT THE APRIL 11-12 DISTRICT CONVENTION BECAUSE HE IS A NATIVE SON AND BECAUSE HE IS TO THE LEFT OF PRESENT CHAIRMAN, MINISTER-PRESIDENT OSSWALD. GEBHARDT, AFTER ONLY ONE YEAR IN OFFICE, IS IN THE SAME UNENVIABLE POSITION HIS PREDECESSOR, FRED ZANDER, WAS IN 1973-4, NAMELY A CHAIRMAN WITHOUT A MAJORITY. HE AND VOIGT (WHO IS THE MOST IMMEDIATE LOSER) HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 FRANKF 01568 101059Z

LOST MANY OF THEIR OLD FRIENDS WITHOUT NECESSARILY GAINING NEW ONES.HARLAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COALITION GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY LEADERS, OPPOSITION PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975FRANKF01568
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750083-0217
From: FRANKFURT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750367/aaaacill.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <30 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEFTISTS RETAIN CONTROL OF FRANKFURT SPD
TAGS: PINT, GE, SPD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006